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MEMORANDUM

JUL 26 1999

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**Date:** July 23, 1999

**From:** Tracey Wilson  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Policy & Program Planning Division  
445 12 Street  
5-C150  
S.W., Washington, D.C.

**To:** Office of the Secretary  
445 12 Street.  
TW-B204F  
S.W., Washington, D.C.

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**Subject:** CC Docket 98-141

Please place the following letters into the record of CC Docket 98-141. If you require further information, please feel free to contact me at 202-418-1394. Thank you for your assistance.

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JUL 26 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 1, 1999

William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Room 814  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing on behalf of SeniorNet to encourage you and your fellow commissioners to move quickly to approve the merger of SBC Communications and Ameritech. We believe that the conditions proposed by the FCC on June 30 will ensure that our constituents will be protected and served by the merger.

SeniorNet is the world's largest trainer of older adults on computer technology and the Internet. As a non-profit organization training older Americans to use new telecommunications services, SeniorNet has an interest in ensuring that these services remain affordable and accessible to our constituent group of adults over age 50, particularly those in low-income and rural areas of the United States.

SeniorNet believes that the merger conditions intended to bridge the "Digital Divide" by making advanced services such as high-speed Internet access via ADSL broadly available, with a special emphasis on low-income urban and rural wire centers, as well as extending the Lifeline program for low-income consumers across the SBC-Ameritech 13-state territory will ensure services remain affordable and accessible to older adults over age 50.

415.495.4990

fax: 415.495.3999

[www.seniornet.org](http://www.seniornet.org)

121 Second Street, 7th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

Once again we urge the you and your fellow commissioners to quickly approve the merger, and we applaud your efforts to bridge the "Digital Divide" by working to ensure the inclusion of both low-income and rural populations in the information revolution.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann Wrixon". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Ann Wrixon  
President

Cc: Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani



# Coalition of Labor Union Women

1126 16th Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 466-4610 • Fax (202) 776-0537

July 2, 1999

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The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room 8-B201  
Washington, D.C. 20024

### Re: Proposed Merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in support of the proposed merger between Bell Atlantic and GTE. CLUW represents more than 25,000 unionized workers (primarily women) in various diverse industries and professions throughout the United States. CLUW is actively involved in educational and public policy initiatives directed to improving working conditions and ensuring equal employment opportunities for its members and for working people generally.

Because the proposed merger appears likely to expand opportunities for competition and market expansion across the country, it is likely to create the kind of quality jobs that will greatly benefit workers and ensure that they will enjoy fair and equitable wages and working conditions and continued harmonious labor-management relations. Unlike mergers of other companies in the telecommunications industry, it appears that this merger will result in additional jobs with the promise of improved salary and advancement opportunities in an expanding industry. In addition, another obvious benefit of the proposed merger will be to stimulate our nation's economic growth, all to the benefit of the hardworking employees who are responsible for the successes of these companies and others in this important sector of the marketplace.

Finally, CLUW supports the merger because it will lead to improved service and reduced costs in the communications industry, to the benefit of all working people.

Sincerely,

Gloria T. Johnson  
President



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
House of Representatives  
State House, Boston 02133-1054  
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**JUL 14 1999**

Common Carrier Bureau  
Network Service Division  
Office of the Chief

June 29, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 Main Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications.

When the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was formed, it was envisioned that the creation of competition would bring many benefits to consumers. Benefits such as more choices, improved services, and competitive prices would be extended to both residential and business consumers. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for these benefits to become a reality. The merger of these two companies would be a step in the right direction towards achieving the goals outlined in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Indirectly, the merger will provide benefits to its surrounding communities by providing a large influx of new job opportunities to the region. When SBC merged with PacTel in California, 3000 new jobs were added to the region. The new company combined with the increased competition to other service providers will increase job opportunities for the working families of the region.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope that you will approve the merger between Ameritech and SBC Communications.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Petruccelli*

Anthony Petruccelli  
State Representative  
OFFICE: 617-452-1330

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# UNITED SENIORS HEALTH COOPERATIVE

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ARTHUR FLEMMING (1905 - 1996)  
*Founding Chair*

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JUL 8 3 09 PM '99

July 7, 1999

DEFECT

William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I write to support the proposed merger between SBC Communications, Inc. and Ameritech Corporation.

As president of a consumer group of several thousand seniors concerned about having good information and adequate finances to maintain independent living during their later years, I know that access to a wide range of affordable communication services is a necessary element in achieving this goal. Whether it is reaching assistance in an emergency, or obtaining information on services available to the homebound, or receiving friendly telephone calls to raise the spirits of the lonely, electronic communication plays an important role in the wellbeing of the elderly.

We are very pleased that in addition to lowering costs by fostering SBC and Ameritech also make a commitment to extend lifeline services for low income individuals, many of whom are elderly.

Some of our members think longingly of days when choices were fewer and the technology was so simple it was easy to understand. But when all is said and done, we would not give up the improvements that we know today: the assistive technology for the disabled, the ability to research everything from genealogy to medical therapies on the Internet, and the opportunity for communicating with grandchildren that e-mail offers. We want to see communications companies strong enough to offer us the latest and best services and big enough to be able to compete with foreign service providers.

Very truly yours,

Anne Werner  
President and CEO

copies to: Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner  
Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Michael K. Powell, Commissioner  
Gloria Tristani, Commissioner